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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

MUTFORD & LOTHINGLAND

Rural District Council

For the Year 1916,

BY

LAURENCE GIBSON, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

LOWESTOFT:

FLOOD & SON, LTD., PRINTERS, THE GROVE.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

MUTFORD AND LOTHINGLAND RURAL DISTRICT,
FOR THE YEAR 1916.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting you with my Annual Report for 1916.

As economy in the use of paper and the cost of printing is even more important this year than last, I have condensed the report as much as possible. Comparison with previous years can be carried out in conjunction with previous reports.

The estimated population for 1916, according to calculation by the usual factor, was estimated as 11,553, but the civil population is estimated at 10,323 for the year 1916, and on this the death rates and infectious disease attack rates will be calculated.

The birth rate will be calculated on a population of 11,232, which figure is provided by the Registrar General.

BIRTH RATE.

234 births (130 males and 104 females) were registered as belonging to the district in 1916. The gross number of births registered was 235. This gives a birth rate of 21·01 per 1,000 on a population of 11,232, which is a decrease on last year. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1916 was 21·6 per 1,000, which is slightly higher. Of those 234 births, 10 (8 males and 2 females) were illegitimate, 4 of which took place in the Workhouse, one more than last year, thus the illegitimate births were 4·27 per cent. of the total births, or 0·89 per thousand of the birth rate population (11,232). In 1915 the percentage was 3·4 and the ratio of births to the birth rate population (11,339) was 0·79 per 1,000. Forty per cent. of those births took place in the Workhouse, but last year there were only 13·3 per cent.

DEATH RATE.

One hundred and thirty-three deaths (66 males and 67 females) were registered as belonging to the district in 1916, giving a net death rate of 12·83 per 1,000, which is an improvement on last year, when it was 15·06 per 1,000. The death rate for England and

Wales for 1916 was 14·0 per thousand, being 1·12 higher than your district. Eighteen deaths were in infants under one year of age, one of whom was illegitimate. Whooping Cough caused the only Zymotic Death, with a death rate of 0·097 per 1,000. Eleven deaths were due to Phthisis and other Tubercular diseases, with a death rate of 1·06 per 1,000. Ten deaths were due to Cancer, with a death rate of 0·97 per 1,000. Three deaths were uncertified. Six deaths of residents were subject for inquests. Of the 133 deaths 58 were aged 65 years and upwards. Of the the 133 deaths 53 were registered as belonging to the Belton Sub-district, and 80 to the Oulton Broad Sub-district.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

Eighteen children (13 males and 5 females) died under one year of age during the year 1916 ; this is the lowest number I have on record, the next best being in 1910, when the number was 23. The infantile mortality rate was 76·9 per 1,000 net births, which is a considerable decrease on the 147, which was last year's figure. The rate for England and Wales for 1916 was 91 per 1,000, which is 14·1 per 1,000 higher than your district. Of those 18 infants, 8 died in the Belton Sub-district and 10 in the Oulton Broad sub-district. Those deaths were registered in the following parishes. Belton, 2 ; Bradwell, 2 ; Hopton, 2 ; Lound, 1 ; Somerleyton, 1 (illegitimate) ; Barnby, 1 ; Carlton Colville, 1 ; Gisleham, 1 ; Kessingland, 3 ; Mutford, 2 ; and Pakefield, 2 (one illegitimate). Under the Notification of Births Act 3 of those infants were not notified when born.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

This Act was brought into operation at the beginning of September, 1915, but although it was advertised in the usual manner, and midwives and doctors received cards to notify on, the percentage of births not notified was nearly 30 per cent. One hundred and seventy-eight births were notified during the year, but 7 of those were stillborn and 6 were transferred to other districts, leaving the net number of 165.

THE WORKHOUSE.

Five births (not including one stillborn) (one male and four females) were reported as having taken place in the Institution ; the 4 females were illegitimate.

There were 60 deaths (37 males and 23 females) registered, compared with 56 in 1915. There were no inquests or uncertified deaths, and no children died under one year of age.

There were no cases of Infectious Disease of any description notified during the year.

Of the 60 deaths, 45 were admitted from Lowestoft, 7 from Oulton Broad Urban District and 8 from your district ; 39 were aged 65 years and upwards, and senile decay was the cause of 26 deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

Forty notifications were received under this Act. They were as follows :

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	17
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	16
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	3
Erysipelas..	..	..	..	..	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	1

This is an improvement on last year, when there were 57 notifications (38 Scarlet Fever, 9 Diphtheria, 4 Enteric Fever, 4 Erysipelas, 1 Puerperal Fever and 1 Ophthalmia Neonatorum).

Most of the cases occurred in an isolated way, but of the Scarlet Fever cases 11 were notified from Kessingland, 4 being notified in May (3 being from one family). In June and July 2 more cases occurred, both in the same house. In September 4 more cases (3 from the same house).

Of the Diphtheria cases Somerleyton had 4 cases (3 from one house). Kessingland had 4 (2 from the same house). Pakefield had 3 (2 from the same house). Mutford, Carlton, Oulton Blundeston and Belton had one each.

Enteric Fever cases were notified from Belton, Burgh Castle and Pakefield.

Twenty-four cases were removed to hospital : 10 Scarlet Fever and 14 Diphtheria.

MILITARY CASES.—Included in the above numbers were two cases of soldiers in the district. One case of Scarlet Fever was notified from a camp at Herringfleet, and one case of Diphtheria from a billet at Kessingland ; in the latter case the house was found in rather a dirty condition.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES REGULATIONS, 1915.

(Which came into force on 1st January, 1916.)

Under this Order 93 cases were reported during the year ; the majority of them were in the early part of the year, 35 being in January and 25 in February.

There were 91 cases of Measles and 2 of German Measles ; 51 cases were reported by the parents and 41 by doctors. In 31 cases there had been a previous case in the house within two months. In cases where the parents notified as many as possible were visited and given instructions in nursing.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1912.

Under these regulations 19 notifications were received, 17 of Phthisis and 2 of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the 19, 16 were on Form A, 2 on Form C, and one on Form D. The cases notified on Forms C and D had been notified before. Two cases were admitted for sanatorium treatment and one left of his own accord. Of the remainder 7 died, which suggests that they were in an advanced stage of the disease.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The only death from Zymotic Disease was one from Whooping Cough, which gives the low Zymotic death rate of 0·097 per 1,000, the lowest on record since 1905.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Work under this Act has been much curtailed owing to the difficulty of getting repairs done; however, five houses were re-inspected and the defects were remedied.

OULTON JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

On 1st January there were 4 cases in hospital from 1915; all were Scarlet Fever, 3 from the Rural District and one from the Urban District. During the year 1916, 59 cases were admitted, so the actual number treated was 63.

The total number discharged was 49, and there were 3 deaths during the year, and at the end of 1916 there were 11 cases in hospital: 3 Scarlet Fever and 8 Diphtheria.

There were no cases of Enteric Fever admitted during the year.

Of the 59 cases admitted 24 were from the Rural District, 34 from the Urban District and one case of Diphtheria was one of the staff. The 24 cases from the Rural District were as follows:

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	10
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	14

The 34 cases from the Urban District were as follows:

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	9
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	25

The Scarlet Fever cases had 1,005 days' maintenance; those from the Rural District 563 days and those from the Urban District 442 days.

The Diphtheria cases had 1,921 days' maintenance; those from the Rural District 773 days, and those from the Urban district 1,148 days.

The total number of days' maintenance of patients was 2,926: Rural, 1,336; Urban, 1,590.

Average number of patients, 7·99: Rural, 3·65; Urban, 4·34.

I have to thank all the officials with whom I have come in contact for the kindness and courtesy they have shown in assisting me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

LAURENCE GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

CARTON COTTAGE,

OULTON BROAD,

20th October, 1917.

Mutford and Lothingland Rural District.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1916.

*Factories, Workshops, Lavatories, Workplaces and Home-workers
inspected.*

Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	..	..	..	47
Home-workers	..	..	..	There are none

DEFECTS FOUND.

Want of cleanliness	..	..	..	..	..	0
Want of drainage to floors	..	..	..	..	..	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	..	..	..	..	..	0
Failure to affix Abstract of Factory and Workshop Act	..	..	..	..	..	0

WORKSHOPS ON REGISTER AT THE END OF 1916.

Cobblers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Carpenters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Wheelwrights		..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Paintshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Smithies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Tailors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Brickworks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Saddlers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Plumbers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cycle Repairing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Twine Spinners	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dressmakers		..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Foundry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Netmakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Monumental Masons		..	..	..	..	..	..	1

RURAL DISTRICT.

Houses and premises inspected under Public Health Act	..	1050
Houses inspected under Housing and Town Planning Act	..	0
Houses re-inspected under Housing and Town Planning Act	..	5
Military billets and camps inspected		40
Intimation Notices served		14
Statutory Notices served		2
Nuisances discovered		40
Complaints received		11
Summonses heard before Justices		0
Company's water supply to dwellings		0
" " " Military billets and camps		3
Privies and middens converted into pail closets		5

Pail closets converted into water closets	0
Insanitary refuse middens abolished	5
Galvanized iron refuse bins provided	5
Bath, sink and waste pipes disconnected	0
Choked and defective drainage	24
From deposits of fish offal	1
" " other offensive matter	4
Insanitary closets under Public Health Acts	13
" " Housing and Town Planning Act	2
" " demolished and rebuilt	2
From overcrowding	0
From keeping of swine	1
" " fowls	0
From defective paving under Housing and Town Planning Act	0

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Number of inspections made	0
" " re-inspections made	5
" " notices complied with	5
" " Intimation Notices served	0
" " Statutory Notices served	0
" " Closing Orders issued	0

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Cow-keepers and Dairymen on register	94
" " applications for registration as Cow-keepers and Purveyors of Milk	8
" " visits made to Cowsheds and Dairies	104
" " notices issued under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders	13

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1913 (ANIMALS).

Number of inspections	0
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CANAL BOATS ACTS.

Number of canal boats (wherries) visited and inspected ..	1
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WATER FOR ANALYSIS.

Number of samples taken and forwarded to Public Analyst for analysis -.. .. .	1
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SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number visited and inspected	2
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FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

Number of	bakehouses inspected	..	..	..	..	4
„	blacksmiths' shops inspected	..	..	..	..	11
„	tailors' workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	0
„	carpenters' and wheelwrights' workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	6
„	boot repairing workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	8
„	brickworks (factory) inspected	..	..	..	..	1
„	paint shops inspected	..	..	..	..	1
„	saddlers' and cycle repairing workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	6
„	dressmakers' workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	2
„	twine spinners' workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	1
„	plumbers' workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	3
„	foundry (factory) inspected	..	..	..	..	1
„	net makers' workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	1
„	marble masons' workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	1
„	workshops on register	..	..	..	..	47

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Number of	houses disinfected after infectious disease	..	..	..	..	39
„	visits made to infected houses	..	..	..	..	78
„	persons removed to isolation hospital	..	..	..	..	23
„	persons suffering from phthisis, supplied with disinfectants and literature	..	..	..	..	14
„	persons suffering from erysipelas, supplied with disinfectants and literature	..	..	..	..	3
„	articles of clothing and bedding disinfected (in lots) by steam	..	..	..	..	34
„	military billets disinfected (for cleansing only)	..	..	..	..	0
„	military bedding disinfected (in lots) by steam (for cleansing only)	..	..	..	..	0

(Signed),

THOS. WOOD, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

January 23rd, 1917.



